



**WILLIAM ROCKHILL
NELSON GALLERY OF
ART and MARY ATKINS
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

GALLERY NEWS

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON TRUST

THE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES

J. C. Nichols

H. V. Jones

R. B. Caldwell

THE STAFF

Director (absent on leave)	Paul Gardner
Acting Director	Ethlyne Jackson
Curator of Oriental Art (absent on leave)	Laurence Sickman
Acting Curator of Oriental Art	Lindsay Hughes
Advisor in European Art	Harold W. Parsons
Honorary Advisor in Oriental Art	Langdon Warner
Junior Education	Mary Louise Clifton
Musical Director	Jane Rosenthal
Registrar	Dorothy Throm
Secretary to Director and Librarian	Louise Lebrecht
Cashier and Sales	Mary Maillard
Superintendent	Clarence Simpson
Gallery Assistant	George Herrick

LECTURES AND GALLERY GUIDANCE

Information concerning scheduled lectures for the month will be found in the following pages. Special talks for groups may be arranged by appointment. Services of a guide may be secured at a fee of twenty cents per person, with a minimum fee of one dollar for an hour's tour. Due to limited personnel at the present time, arrangements should be made in advance.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Information about enrollment for Saturday and Summer Classes may be obtained from the Director of Junior Education. Saturday afternoon activities especially for children are listed in the calendar.

PUBLICATIONS

Catalogues, handbooks, photographs, postcards, etc., are for sale at the Information Desk to the left of the North Entrance. This News Letter is published once each month, September through June, plus a Summer Issue, and is distributed without charge.

See back page for further information.

G A L L E R Y N E W S

October 1944

CHINESE STREET FAIR: For the native Chinese and for his foreign visitor, some of the gayest and happiest hours are those spent in the crowded and colorful Street Fairs. They are always to celebrate a fete day, the New Year's festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, the Lantern Festival or the third week of the month. But whatever the occasion, the spirit of merriment is supreme. For the months of October and November, the Gallery hopes to capture that spirit and pass it on to others who come to visit the special exhibition rooms on the first floor.

In the central gallery, the public will see the innumerable shops where ancestor paintings crowd cloisonne tea caddies, and Door Gods flank bronze sacrificial vessels, lacquer screens show above tomb figures and wooden temples are alongside of porcelain bowls. There will be sculptures, wood block prints, rugs, books and rubbings, altar cloths and k'ao-ssu robes, landscapes, pictures on glass and some of iron. Everything will be there, including the "tung-hsis", a literal translation being "east-west", a practical one being "gadget" or "oddment".

Two large, brightly colored pavilions decorate the show. One of them in blue, green and yellow with a central Moon Window is in the North Loan Gallery, mainly concerned with theatrical arts. Four screens with shadow puppets lent to the Gallery by Lieutenant-Colonel H.S. Aldrich, and contemporary paintings of the Chinese theatre lent by Mrs. Harry Hussey will be shown here. In the center of the room will be a model of a Chinese compound and surrounding streets, laid out, built and assembled by the children in a summer craft class at the Gallery, taught by Miss Georgia Scofield.

The South loan gallery will fuse the East and West. Here we will display pictures by Miss Wilma Prezzi of New York whose oil paintings of

Chinese subjects are meeting with great popularity. The Nelson Gallery is the first of several Western museums who will show Miss Prezzi's work during the coming months.

OPENING OF CHINESE FAIR SPONSORED BY SERVICE FOR AMERICA: Our official winter opening, October 4th, the first Wednesday night in October, promises to be an occasion long remembered. Service for America is presenting an auxilliary Fair in Rozelle Court on that night. The court will be hung with Chinese Lanterns and Chinese music will add to the note of festivity. The various booths in this Fair will really sell their wares. There will be things made in China and things about China. Jewelry, Christmas cards, Tea, Books for Children, Books for Adults, Cook books, key cases, tea cups, place sets, ration book covers, potted plants, cocktail forks and stuffed pandas. Moreover, students in the Gallery's children's classes have donated paintings and sculptures to be sold in the benefit. Mr. C.F. Yau of New York has presented four water color paintings by Miss Ching-chih Yee, the proceeds to be given to Service for America. Miss Yee taught for five years at the Shanghai Art College and since 1937 has been teaching and exhibiting in the Eastern part of this country. She had an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum in January and February of 1943 and this Autumn her paintings are on tour under the auspices of the American Federation of Art.

There will be a marionette show, a puppet show, a magician, a fortune-teller, tumblers and wrestlers - and a Wishing Well. Then, on the Upper Gallery, looking down on this frivolity and gayety you will be served Chinese tea and cakes.

For this special entertainment on October 4th, including the refreshments, Service for America is charging one dollar. This money all

goes to furnish the huts which house our soldiers in the Aleutians. One booth in the Fair will sell objects for the benefit of United China Relief and another will be for the Chinese Women's Relief Association who provide for the Chinese Orphans. The big Chinese Fair will be on display for two months, but the Benefit Fair in Rozelle court will be one night only, 7:30 to 10:00 on Wednesday, October 4th.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH: A FRENCH GOTHIC SCULPTURE OF THE 13th CENTURY. French Gothic sculpture of the 13th century represents one of the most perfect expressions of artistic achievement of the western world. The spiritual renaissance which motivated the revival of cathedral building in the Romanesque period was still young and vigorous and to it was added the technical skill necessary to the perfection of great aesthetic expression. The section known as the Ile de France was the center of activity and the cathedrals of Chartres, Notre Dame de Paris, Amiens, Rouen, Rheims and many others were the fruition of the movement. The Gallery is happy to announce the acquisition, by gift of the Laura Nelson Kirkwood Residuary Trust, of a truly magnificent stone sculpture of this provenance which will be featured in Gallery 14 for the month of October.

Representing a crowned female saint, or possibly the Virgin herself, it is of life-size and carved of the compact limestone of the Ile de France sculptures. It is believed to have been originally a part of the decoration of the facade of Notre Dame de Paris - one of the large, almost free standing figures torn off and broken at the order of Revolutionary General Council in 1793. The fragments of these figures have been recovered from time to time and the Gallery head was found in excavations in the vicinity of Notre Dame. Such a provenance is, of course, of great historical importance and future research and comparison with

known fragments in the Cluny Museum and elsewhere may substantiate this origin. Its first importance as a museum acquisition, however, is its own serene and faintly smiling beauty which needs no documentation or scholarly argument to attest the creative skill of the unknown master who carved it.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES - CERAMICS:

The Art of the Potter through the ages will be the subject of the 1944-45 series of Wednesday Evening Lectures, which will commence on November 1st and continue through the month of March. The opening lecture will be a demonstration of the techniques used, with explanatory comment and will be followed by an historical tracing of the development of the art in the East and the West. The lectures will be given by staff members; Miss Ethlyne Jackson, Acting Director; Miss Lindsay Hughes, Acting Curator of Oriental Art, and Miss Louise Lebrecht. Of especial interest will be the November 15th lecture on the pottery of Greece which will be given by Mr. Harold Woodbury Parsons, European Advisor for the Gallery. As usual, the series is open to the public without charge and will be illustrated by lantern slides.

GALLERY NOTES:

Evening Openings: Beginning October 6th, the Gallery will again be open on Wednesday and Friday evenings without admission charge. Musical, lecture and cinema programs for those evenings are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Chinese Lions Return: When the Gallery opened in 1933, Mr. C. T. Loo of New York lent us a pair of Chinese lions of about 400 A.D. which stood on either side of the entrance to the main Chinese Room. There they remained for four years and their power and dignity appealed to all visitors. Then Mr. Loo took them away to lend them to the Golden Gate International Exhibition in San Francisco, and

they were sadly missed by one and all. Since our last issue, the Gallery has purchased the lions and they are again standing guard in their place of honor, opposite the Chinese Temple. They are outstanding examples of the native Chinese tradition of animal sculpture, and with our comprehensive collection of Chinese Buddhist sculptures, we can now present a clear picture of the sculptor's accomplishments in China.

Ceramics Gallery: For the months of October and November, the Ceramics room will feature the works of the famous English potter, Josiah Wedgwood, whose artistic integrity and fine business sense could serve today as a working model in blending art and industry. The Burnap Collection contains examples of the typical Wedgewood wares from the rare early figurines, dated 1748, to the later classical jaspers and basalts.

Friends of Art Study Group: The date and time of the October study group meeting for the Friends of Art will be announced by postcard notice.

MUSICAL PROGRAMS: A most interesting series of musical programs, presenting artists and artist students, has been arranged for Sunday afternoons in Atkins Auditorium, during the coming season. In addition to these concerts, a series of recorded music programs will be presented in Kirkwood Hall and the music may be heard throughout the Galleries on the first floor.

It is with great pleasure that the Gallery presents on Sunday afternoon, October 15th, one of Kansas City's most outstanding singers, Latonia Barnett. Mrs. Barnett, whose magnificent soprano voice needs no introduction to Kansas City audiences, will include French, Old English and Modern Italian songs in her program, as well as German Lieder and a group of songs by contemporary composers now living in

Kansas City. Powell Weaver's "The Night Will Never Stay", Wictor Labunski's "The Aspen Tree" and "I Know a Maiden Fair" by David Van Vactor are in this last group. Mrs. Barnett's concluding number will be "I Hear an Army", a recent composition of Corporal Samuel Barber, USA, nephew of Louise Homer and one of America's most outstanding composers.

The remaining programs for the month of October are listed in the Calendar.

MOTION PICTURES: Beginning Friday, October 6th and continuing on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 8 o'clock throughout the month of October, a festival of French motion pictures will be presented in Atkins Auditorium. GRAND ILLUSION, one of the greatest films of the last decade, depicts the life of a group of French prisoners in a German camp during World War I. The cast includes the great names of the French theatre; Jean Gabin, Pierre Fresnay, Dalio, as well as Erich von Stroheim as the German colonel and Dita Parlo, the German civilian. The film was directed by Jean Renoir.

Dostoyevsky's masterpiece in psycho-analysis CRIME ET CHATIMENT has had many film versions, but none more effective and gripping than this French version by Pierre Chenal. Pierre Blanchard fills the role of the student Raskolinikov and Harry Bauer portrays the cunning police inspector. The film score is by Arthur Honneger. The National Board of Review says, "This film deserves a place among motion picture classics comparable to the place the novel fills in literature."

Two other novels which have been translated into the medium of the motion picture will also be shown: Flaubert's MADAME BOVARY, featuring Valentine Tessier as Emma Bovary, and Joseph Conrad's SOUS LES YEUX D'OCCIDENT. To complete the series of French films,

GRIBOUILLE will be shown on Friday evening, October 28th. This film features the great French comedian, Raimu, and Michele Morgan. UN CARNET DU BAL, written and directed by Julien Duvivier, another great French contribution, is the nostalgic story of a woman's life, recalled by the discovery of a dance program, magnificently portrayed by Francois Rosay, Louis Jouvet, Marie Bell, Raimu and Pierre Blanchard.

With the liberation of France it is indeed fitting that these masterpieces of the motion picture be shown. They reveal the great contribution of this country to the motion picture, in which they excell no less than in the fields of art, literature and music. This survey predicts for us the part France is to play in this, the newest of the arts, as she assumes her rightful place among the great democratic nations.

DEPARTMENT OF JUNIOR EDUCATION: Registration for winter classes will be on Saturday, October 14th at ten o'clock. No child will be enrolled in advance. Classes begin on Saturday, October 21st from ten until twelve o'clock. Enrollment is limited to 25 pupils in a class. Following is a list of the subjects offered and the age groups for each: Indian Arts, 7-9 yrs; Ancient Arts, 7-9 yrs; Medieval Arts, 7-9 yrs; Oriental Arts, 10-12; American Arts, 10-12; Marionettes, 10-12; Painting, 12-16; Modeling, 12-16; Theatrical Arts, 12-16; and Gallery Activities, all ages. The class in Theatrical Arts will consist of creative writing and production of a play. The Gallery activities class is for those who are particularly interested in art history and who would like to have docent training.

The adult water colour class will be continued. Those interested in it or the crafts class may register by telephone. The fee for all classes is \$3.50, including materials.

There will be afternoon programs for children on Saturdays, October 21st & 28th, as listed in the

Calendar. An exhibition of miniatures will be on display in The Little Museum. Children whose summer work is now on display may call for it during October. Through the cooperation of the Public Library, we will have an enlarged art library available for use by the children in the Saturday classes.

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Sun. 1 - 3:30 - Ethel Austin & Joan Francine Becker, Pianists
Wed. 4 - 7:30 - Opening Chinese Street Fair
Fri. 6 - 7:45 - Talk, Gallery 14 - Master-piece, Miss Lebrecht
" 6 - 8:00 - Cinema - "Grand Illusion"
Sun. 8 - 3:00 - Recorded Music Program
Tues. 10 - 10:00 - Library - Book Club
" 10 - 1:00 - Library - Art Study Club
Wed. 11 - 8:00 - Cinema - "Madame Bovary"
Fri. 13 - 1:00 - Library - Hypatia Delphians
" 13 - 7:45 - Talk, Gallery 29 - American Watercolors, Mrs. Gibbon
" 13 - 8:00 - Cinema, "Crime et Chatiment"
Sat. 14 - 10:00 - Registration, Saturday classes
Sun. 15 - 3:30 - Concert, Mrs. Barnett, Soprano
Tues. 17 - 2:00 - Library - Asiatic Study Group
Wed. 18 - 8:00 - Cinema - "Un Carnet du Bal"
Fri. 20 - 7:45 - Talk, Gallery 20 - Chinese Fair, Miss Hughes
" 20 - 8:00 - Cinema - "Un Carnet du Bal"
Sat. 21 - 10:00 - Opening of Children's Classes
" 21 - 2:00 - Cinema - "The Howards of Virginia"
Sun. 22 - 3:30 - Concert - F. Maguire, Pianist
Wed. 25 - 8:00 - Cinema - "Sous Les Yeux D'Occident"
Fri. 27 - 1:00 - Library - Hypatia Delphians
" 27 - 7:45 - Talk, Little Museum, Miss Clifton
" 27 - 8:00 - Cinema - "Gribouille"
Sat. 28 - 2:00 - Cinema - "Along the Great Silk Route" & "India"
Sun. 29 - 3:00 - Recorded Music Program

THE LIBRARY

The Library is open to the public by appointment for study purposes. Volumes are not circulated.

SERVICE LOUNGE

A special lounge is maintained for men and women in the armed forces. Books, magazines, and a piano are available. Light refreshments are served on Sunday afternoon. There is no admission charge at any time for people in uniform.

GIFTS TO THE COLLECTION

The greater part of all museum collections has been built up by individual gifts or bequests. Already hundreds of gifts from all over the United States have widened the scope of the Nelson Collection. The Trustees and Director will be pleased to discuss the acceptability of gifts or bequests with those desiring to contribute to the Collection. Gifts of or contributions for contemporary art are especially solicited and would constitute a most noteworthy memorial as the Nelson Funds can be used for purchase of works of art only when the artist has been dead at least thirty years. The Gallery will be glad to give information about the Society of Friends of Art which has been formed by interested patrons for the purpose of purchasing and presenting to the Collection, works by contemporary artists.

The financial cooperation of everyone for such activities as loan exhibitions, courses of lectures, the Library, musical programs, classes for children in art appreciation or the history of art or the peoples of the world as exemplified in the Gallery collections is an urgent need and the Director will be pleased to furnish detailed information.

The legal entity to which gifts should be made is: University Trustees of the William Rockhill Nelson Trust.

WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

KANSAS CITY 2, MO.

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Sunday and Holidays, 2 p. m. to 6 p. m.
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Oct. 1 to May 31:

Same as above except

Wed., 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.; 7 p. m. to 10 p. m.

Friday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.; 7:30 p. m. to 10 p. m.

Free days: Saturday, Sunday and public holidays
Wednesday and Friday evenings (Oct. 1 to May 31)

Closed:

All Mondays

New Years, July 4th

Thanksgiving and Christmas

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